

SECRETARY OF STATE KNOX ENVOY TO MIKADO'S FUNERAL

America Will Thus Show Signal Honor to His Era and to Japan.

It is not often that the United States sends the premier of the cabinet to the funeral of a king. This unusual distinction is being shown to the dead emperor of Japan for the double purpose of doing honor to that country and of thus delicately avowing our part in awakening the Flower Kingdom to modern civilization. It was under the reign of the dead monarch that Japan was transformed from a medieval country to one abreast of twentieth century civilization.

Mr. Knox's embassy will be clothed with all the pomp possible under the circumstances. He will be accompanied by an admiral and by a general as his aids, and his secretary will be the present chief of the bureau of far eastern affairs. Mrs. Knox will also accompany him. Personally the secretary of state has shown himself not averse to travel. He has recently toured Central and South America, and he has paid a visit to Cuba and Porto Rico. The American ambassador at Tokyo will be present at the funeral also, and his staff will add to the dignity and importance of the American representation at the ceremonies.

With the single exception of ex-President Roosevelt's service as special ambassador at the funeral of King Edward, there is no precedent for such an appointment as that of Mr. Knox. Even the ex-president at the time of his designation was a private citizen, and he was also on the point of visiting England on his way home from his African expedition. Ordinarily prominent citizens of wealth are designated to head these embassies. But in the present instance it was decided to express friendship for Japan by sending a member of the administration.

It is not believed, however, that Mr. Knox's visit will have any bearing whatsoever on the recent reported understanding between Japan and Russia as to the gradual partition of Manchuria and the extension of the Russian sphere of influence in eastern Mongolia. The United States has always shown a willingness to construe loosely the open door policy where that policy applies to territory directly adjacent to the two most potent nations in the orient. And since those two nations have shown that they have forgotten their war and are at last working in harmony this country has been more willing than ever to leave them alone.

It is more likely, however, that the Chinese loan will receive some impetus from Mr. Knox's visit. That loan has been hanging fire with fluctuating prospects ever since the overthrow of the Chinese dynasty. The trouble has been ascribed to various international groups interested in obtaining the loan, and it is possible that some steps to

NEW HERB KILLS MOSQUITOES

Sprig of It Will Drive Them From a Room.

A strange new plant from Liberia promises to become a boon to New Jersey and all other places where people are bitten by mosquitoes. It is called ocimum viride.

The Essex county mosquito extermination commission of New Jersey has obtained some of the seed of this plant, and after it has made some experiments in growing it will distribute it throughout the country.

It is said that if the merest sprig of the plant be nurtured in a room no mosquito will attempt to enter it, and one strong stalk on a porch will keep it clear of the pests.

According to Stewardson Brown, curator of the herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences of New York, the plant is a native of western Africa.

"I know it to grow in Liberia," he said, "and the plant is said to possess certain curative qualities. Over there in Liberia the natives consider it a panacea for all ills. They use it as a remedy for bites, for sprains and even for internal diseases."

"A man in New York tried to grow it some time ago in that section of the city known as the 'Neck,' but he did not succeed. It will probably grow in New Jersey, but only as an annual—that is, they will have to replant it every year. Over in Liberia it reproduces by itself and is quite abundant."

"As I recall it, it has the qualities that would tend to drive the mosquito away. The odor is similar to that of pennyroyal and is not at all unpleasant to human beings. Perhaps it is not an important plant as yet, but it is quite likely to become one later."

Maltreatment of Children. More than 52,000 cases of maltreatment were brought to the notice of the British Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children last year. Not fewer than 1,255 of the children fled from the injuries inflicted.

Perry's Visit the Starting Point of Flower Kingdom's Rapid Advance.

ward straightening out the tangle may be taken while Mr. Knox is in direct touch with the eastern situation.

When Viscount Chinda, Japanese ambassador to Washington, heard of Secretary Knox's mission he asserted it would be taken by the Japanese people and government as an act of the greatest courtesy and one calculated to make even warmer and more cordial the existing relations between the two governments.

Secretary Knox and his party will sail from Seattle on the armored cruiser Pennsylvania. The ship will steam direct to Yokohama, and the passage will probably take about eighteen days. The voyage is about 4,200 miles.

Brigadier General John J. Pershing, commanding the department of Mindanao, Philippines, has been assigned as military attaché of the embassy and will join Secretary Knox in Yokohama. The official program for the funeral of Emperor Mutsuhito, who died on July 30, is as follows: The services are to begin at 6 o'clock in the morning on Sept. 13, when the Emperor Yoshihito and the empress dowager will be present. At 7 o'clock in the evening of the same day the elder statesmen, the peers, all the high officials and the foreign representatives are to assemble at the palace, from which the procession will start at 8 o'clock.

Emperor Yoshihito will not join the procession, but will meet it on the Aoyama parade ground.

The line of the procession, which will be very long, is to be interspersed with musicians, torch bearers and officials carrying emblems, while many priests will also participate.

The coffin containing the body of Emperor Mutsuhito is to be drawn by a team of oxen. The entire route is to be lined by soldiers of the regular army.

Immediately after the arrival of the procession at the Aoyama field the funeral service will begin and will comprise the full and imposing Shinto ritual.

After the service the emperor will personally read a tribute to the dead monarch, and this will be followed by another read by the empress dowager, who will be succeeded by the ministers of state and others, the musicians meanwhile continuing to play funeral airs.

At the conclusion of this service the imperial train is to start for Kyoto, but Emperor Yoshihito and the empress dowager will not travel by it. The train is scheduled to arrive at the station especially built at Momoyama at 5:10 p. m. on Sept. 14, and a similar procession to that arranged from the palace to the Aoyama parade ground will follow. Various tributes to the late emperor's memory will be read beside the tomb.

Further services are to be held on Sept. 15, and these will conclude the funeral ceremonies.

Prince Henry of Prussia, the brother of the emperor, has been selected to proceed to Tokyo to represent Emperor William at the funeral.

PLAN BIG GOLD VAULTS.

Assay Safes in New York Will Have Capacity For \$2,000,000,000.

Secretary MacVeagh has had plans drawn for an immense vault system for safeguarding the billions of gold that the United States government has on deposit during the year. These vaults will be constructed in the front part of the Assay building in New York city and will be five stories deep, being built under ground and reached by elevators.

It is expected that the greater part of the space in which these vaults will be constructed will be blasted out of solid rock. The vaults alone will cost \$170,000, and for the whole construction, including the additions to the Assay building, congress has allowed for this year \$220,000. The vaults will have a capacity for \$2,000,000,000 of gold bullion or coin and will be the largest in the world. The United States treasury buys gold annually to the amount of \$1,000,000,000, and it is deposited all over the country in sub-treasuries, mints and assay offices.

There is apprehension that in a few years the storage capacity of these various offices will be crowded, and Secretary MacVeagh has decided to anticipate the need of one great central strong storage place. If the necessity should arise as the secretary foresees it the time will come when gold bullion in bright yellow bricks will be piled up like so many cords of brick down five stories in the assay office to an amount greater than may be found in any one place in the world.

The secretary says that there is no intention to depart from the present practice of distributing the storage of gold in all parts of the country.

She's a Terror to Snakes.

It is a foolish blacksnake that crosses the path of Mrs. M. McCoy of Eastchester road, New Rochelle, N. Y.

She has killed twenty-eight snakes this year. Mrs. McCoy is the mother of Bessie McCoy, dancer, who recently

was married to Richard Harding Davis, author.

WORLD'S BIGGEST OFFICE BUILDING

To Rise on the Site of the Old Equitable.

TO BE FINISHED MAY 1, 1914.

Five Hundred Feet High, Thirty-six Stories and Covering Solid New York Block—More Floor Space Than Woolworth, Metropolitan or Singer Building.

A new Equitable is to rise in New York on the site of the famous old structure of that name destroyed by fire last January. The ground has been sold to a group of millionaires headed by General T. Coleman du Pont of Wilmington, Del., who will erect on the great area an office building thirty-six stories high and constituting through its floor space the largest office building in the world.

Announcement of this was made recently by E. E. Rittenhouse, conservation commissioner of the Equitable. He issued a statement about it containing the information that the new owners will take possession of the property Dec. 16 next and that the new structure is to be ready for occupancy "not later than May 1, 1914."

The price paid for the site is said to have been in the neighborhood of \$12,000,000.

500 Feet High.

The building will be about 500 feet high and will cover the solid block bounded by Broadway, Pine, Nassau and Cedar streets. Architecturally it will resemble closely the Hudson Terminal buildings, so it is difficult to compare it with other great structures featuring ornamental towers. The tallest building in New York—the Woolworth—is fifty-five stories high, 750 feet tall. The Metropolitan tower is fifty stories and 700 feet 3 inches high. The Singer building rises forty-one stories, or 612 feet 1 inch. But not one of these structures affords so much room as will the Equitable.

The Equitable will take space in the building, the Cafe Savarin will be reincarnated in greater glory and size, an underground restaurant and clubroom will be placed invitingly, and on the top floor one will find club quarters, a law library and board rooms for the use of tenants.

Mr. Rittenhouse dwells upon the proposed superior accommodations. Each office will be light and airy, and the peculiar construction of the building will permit the installation of so many elevators that on dull days tenants will almost be able to boast of having their private cars.

The ground floor will feature the most imposing part of the building—an arcade the ceiling of which will be two stories from the floor. It will be divided by two thoroughfares—one from Broadway to Nassau street and the other from Pine street to Cedar. Beneath the Broadway-Nassau thoroughfare will be a thoroughfare leading from the Broadway subway level to Wall street.

The corporation which has taken over the property is incorporated under the laws of the state of New York and is capitalized at \$12,000,000. The officers and directors are:

T. Coleman du Pont, Wilmington, Del., president; Frank H. Andrews, New York, vice president; L. L. Dunham, Wilmington, Del., secretary and treasurer; William A. Ulman, general counsel; Paul E. Wilson, Wilmington, Del.

TRAIN 7,000 FEET LONG.

Three Engines Needed to Draw 133 Coal Cars.

Unique in the history of railroading are the tremendous trains that have recently been made up on the Lehigh Valley railroad. Some time ago a train of 115 cars of coal, bound for the Bethlehem Steel works, created wonderment. Since then the trains have constantly been growing larger. A new record was made when a train of 133 coal cars moved westward from the Perth Amboy docks for the Mahoning yards to be distributed to the mines. The train was 7,000 feet long, or more than a mile and a quarter, and was drawn by two locomotives, a third pushing. It is said the trains are so large because trainmen are scarce.

"TREASURE ISLAND" SOLD.

Scene of Stevenson's Entrancing Romance Passes to New Owner.

Advices from Honolulu report the sale of Christmas island, about 100 miles south of Honolulu, the reputed original of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" and center of a web of tales current in the south sea of piracy, treasure seeking and wrecking. The island is valuable as a copra producer.

Father Rougerie negotiated the transfer from the ownership of the Greig family to an unnamed buyer.

New Type of Steamship.

A steamship of a new type has been built in Glasgow. It has three masts, no funnel and two sets of Diesel oil engines. The owners expect from this plan a saving in fuel of \$25,000 a year.

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